



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
372 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431
Website: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montaña

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING OF JANUARY 19, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Montaña called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairperson Montaña led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed with a moment of silence and a self introduction.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaña
Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall
John Hammargren
Carl Moore

Excused Absence

Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio
Anne S. Hill

Guests

David Coleman, Internal Services Department
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Elizabeth A. Howard, Department of Children and Family Services
Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor-Controller's Office
Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department
Captain Warren Asmus, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Staff

Nyla Jefferson
Roy Sinclair

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Auditor-Controller's Office

Cassandra Youngblood, Auditor-Controller, reported 100% of the new flyers and posters have been disseminated to Group Homes. This month they began presentations to youth on their rights and the responsibilities of the Children's Group Home Ombudsman. They average about two to three group home visits a week. Commissioners plan to coordinate their inspection of Group Homes with the Ombudsman's staff presentations.

Ms. Youngblood reported on complaints from a couple of youths at Mozell Pennington Boys Center (MBPC). Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), will cite MPBC for refusal to take a youth to the doctor and Ms. Youngblood called the hotline for allowing youths to climb on the roof.

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Department, will investigate Commissioner Bigby's inspection of Children Are Our Future's (Terry House) van that has no seatbelts, holes in the seats and an inoperable side door. Dorothy Channel, DCFS, will provide the minimum clothing standard list for foster children residing at group homes.

Department of Children and Family Services

Elizabeth Howard, DCFS, reported that there were 56 referrals: 15 discounted; 23 referred out; 9 general neglect; 1 evaluated out; 1 unfounded and 7 pending. For physical abuse there were 12: 5 evaluated out; 2 unfounded and 5 pending. For sexual abuse there were 2: 2 evaluated out. Discussion ensued on the death of a minor residing at Star View Children and Family Services. The youth died off-site. The investigation will determine if the minor was sick prior to her death and if she received proper care. Quarterly meetings are being arranged to improve staff association with occupants. Ms Howard reported that there are 36 [Group Home Monitoring Reports](#) on DCFS's Website. She also reported half of her staff was recently moved to a re-established division, Out-of-Care Investigations. DCFS regional offices remain the first line of response.

Dorothy Channel, DCFS, reported on the current situation at Sand Hill Group Home. The Quality Assurance section at the Department of Mental Health was contacted regarding misconduct at the home per the Commission's recommendation; however, because it wasn't County staff that is under investigation the Board of Behavioral Science was also contacted. A Corrective Action Plan has been submitted on this group home.

A "Survival Guide for Teens When They Turn 18" was distributed to the Commission (A copy of the Survival Guide is on file with the Commission).

Internal Services Department

David Coleman, Internal Services Department, promised to provide a report at next month's Business Meeting.

Mental Health Department

There was no representation.

Probation Department

Lisa Campbell-Moton, Probation Department, reported the following:

- AB12, the Assembly Bill which extends the probation youth age to 21, will also affect youth currently in KinGap. The period of being placed under legal guardianship will decrease from 12 months to 6 months. AB12 won't go into effect until 2012.
- AWOL numbers are decreasing possibly in proportion to the decrease in group home populations.
- Letters for expansion are not being issued because there is no budget for more group homes.
- Probation, which previously did not have access to the CWS-CMS system, is now being mandated to enter their information and now has access to the system. The department will begin to enter their own Child Abuse cases into the system.
- Probation will be meeting with DCFS about finding foster homes for Probation youths.
- Probation is reevaluating their Status Offender Detention Alternative (SODA) homes, a placement alternative to detention at Juvenile Hall. There are currently only four SODA PAD homes with caretakers that are planning on retiring from the system. As a result, juveniles previously considered for SODA-PAD placement will now be placed at Emergency Shelters.

Sheriff's Department

Captain Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department, reported the following:

- A new, corrugated iron-walled cell is under discussion for the Long Beach Courthouse detention facility. It would be cost-effective, soundproof and more escape-proof than the standard model concrete and rebar cell.
- Captain Anselmo Gonzales replaced Captain Asmus at Eastern Division.
- Trevon Moore, Security Assistant in Weapons Screening from Kenyon Court, passed away from sickle cell disease at the age of 26.

Commissioner Hammargren requested that Commander Ruiz report back on the status of Custody maintaining facility records for inspections. Commissioner Hall added a request for an update on reflective tape use for facilities.

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore, unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2011 were approved as submitted.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

There was none.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There was none.

STAFF REPORT

There was none.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS ON GROUP HOMES AND/OR DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS FROM JANUARY 13, 2011 TO JANUARY 18, 2011

Fleming & Barnes Dimondale Adolescent #1 – 20, #1 - Chairperson Montañó and Commissioner Hammargren The facility was visited on January 18, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Children Are Our Future (Howard House) – 8, #2 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill The facility was visited on January 14, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Children Are Our Future (Terry House) – 8, #4 - Commissioner Bigby The facility was visited on January 18, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition. **Area of Concern:** The following need to be repaired or replaced: Bathroom #1, hot and cold water faucet, shelve under sink; Bathroom #2, sliding shower door, new shower head and floor tile; Bedroom #1, closet door, curtains, dresser drawer, bedroom door and hole in wall; Bedroom #2, two mattress, blinds, window screen and closet door, bedroom door off hinges; and Bedroom #3, curtain rod, hole in closet door, needs new towels, blankets and comforters; and kitchen roof needs to be repaired (there is water damage and leaks). Also, Commissioner Bigby placed the facility on a 30-day Corrective Action Plan, and will return for a follow-up investigation.

Deliann Lucille Corp. – 12, #4 – Commissioners Hall and Moore The facility was visited on January 6, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition. Commissioner Moore recommended that staff keep a log, which records clients signing receipt of their clothing and spending allowance.

Little Peoples World – 27, #2 - Commissioners Hall and Moore The facility was visited on January 11, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

O’Conner & Atkins – 31, #2 - Commissioners Hall and Moore The facility was visited on January 13, 2011, however, the facility was not inspected, as no one was home.

Dangerfield Group Home #2 – 11, #4 - Commissioners Hall and Moore The facility was visited on January 18, 2011, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Cunningham Group Home – 11, #3 - Commissioners Hall and Moore The facility was visited on December 23, 2010, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.